CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for the preparation of nano- or microparticles containing an active substance embedded in a polymer matrix, comprising the steps of:

a) combining a solution of an active substance dissolved in a smaller amount of a first solvent L1 selected from water or organic solvent with a solution of a polymer in a larger amount of a second organic solvent L2, said solvent L2 dissolving the polymer but being a non-solvent for the active substance, thereby effecting precipitation of the active substance in a solution which comprises the polymer dissolved in an organic solvent to obtain a suspension of the active substance,

b) mixing the obtained suspension with an aqueous surfactant solution and solidifying the polymer to obtain a suspension of nano- or microparticles which contain an active substance embedded in a polymer matrix; wherein said active substance is selected from the group of compounds that are sensitive to ~~denaturation,~~ denaturation or degradation in aqueous solutions or shear forces.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein L1 and L2 are fully or partially miscible.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein L1 and L2 are combined under stirring.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the organic solvent(s) used in the method is (are) partially soluble in water.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the suspension of the nano- or microparticles is obtained in step b) by adding the aqueous surfactant solution to the

suspension of step a).

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the volume fraction of the aqueous surfactant solution of step b) ranges between 60 and 80% of the total composition after mixing with the obtained suspension of step a).

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the active substance is a protein or a peptide.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the polymer is a poly(DL-lactide-co-glycolide).

10 - 11. (Cancelled)